



*Our mission gives hope to millions of youth around the globe.*



*What's your mission?*

February 21, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Re: Docket #RM2017-3  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Dear Sir or Madam:

For more than thirty years, Salesian Missions has solicited donations, mainly through direct mail appeals delivered by the US Postal Service, accounting for 90% of our total revenue. Special postage rates for qualified nonprofit organizations have existed since 1951, reflecting that Congress understands the role nonprofits play in strengthening our civil society. While it is understandable that all costs must increase to keep up with inflation, a postage increase over the Consumer Price Index would cripple charitable nonprofits that rely heavily on the US Postal Service to raise funds, especially in the current economic climate.

The economic downturn in recent four years has imposed strains on nonprofit mailers. Quite simply, donations are down, yet the need for charitable services are greater than ever before. We, like most nonprofits, have cut our costs to the bone. An immediate rate increase over the Consumer Price Index would force nonprofits like us to drastically cut back on fundraising campaigns, which would reduce spending on core programs, to merely stay afloat. We simply cannot afford to absorb such an increase and maintain the level of funding to our charitable mission works for poor and needy children.

A postage increase over the CPR would impact all Americans, but it would be devastating for the charitable nonprofit community, which uses direct mail for fundraising and to stay in touch with contributors.

Please do whatever you can to protect charitable nonprofit organizations from an unfair and illogical postage rate increase.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Blum  
Direct Mail Program Supervisor

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